CHAPTER IV

CROPPING PATTERN AND CHANGES THEREIN
The previous chapter dealt with the extent of broad categories of landuse viz., non-agricultural land, potential agricultural land and agricultural land. Now it would be pertinent to examine how intensively the net sown area is being cropped. In this chapter the focus is on patterns of cropping. The overall cropping pattern of the region is outlined and it is followed by a discussion of the individual crops. Each crop has two maps, the first shows the distribution and the second the changes.

CROPPING PATTERN:

The crops are generally classified as food crops and non food crops. But the crops of the region are classified into six important sets as below:

Food Crops:

(i) Food grains - Cereals and pulses.
(ii) Non-foodgrains - Sugarcane, fruits and vegetables, condiments and spices.

Non Food Crops:

(iii) Oilseeds.
(iv) Fibres
(v) Drugs and Nacrotics.
(vi) Fodders.

The existing overall cropping pattern and the trends therein are tabulated in Table 4.1. According to some agricultural economists a cropping pattern means the proportion of area under various crops at a point of time (Kanwar, 1972). In the region's overall cropping pattern, food crops occupy the largest area (256999 hectares) which is about 63.28 percent of the total cropped area. Rice is the leading crop followed by jowar. Other foodgrains occupy very small proportion of area. But sugarcane has now attained significant proportion i.e. 42935 hectares of cultivated area (10.52 %). Amongst non-foodcrops, groundnut and fodder occupy dominant place. Other non-foodcrops are insignificant in the cropping pattern of the study area. There are remarkable changes in the cropping pattern of the district during the period under investigation. The total area involved in change is 11.63 percent which is more significant in case of food crops (8.49 %), while the area involved in change under the non-food crops is only 3.14 percent.

Besides, these generalities, there are spatial variations depending upon rainfall and soil conditions. Therefore a detailed analysis of each tillage crop based on the quinquennial averages (for 1951-55 and 1971-75) and the respective changes therein now follows.
Table 4.1
Trends in Cropping Pattern in Kolhapur District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Crop</th>
<th>1951-55 %</th>
<th>1971-75 %</th>
<th>Change</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Food crops</td>
<td>64.37</td>
<td>63.28</td>
<td>-1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foodgrains</td>
<td>57.41</td>
<td>50.22</td>
<td>-7.19</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cereals</td>
<td>51.64</td>
<td>46.72</td>
<td>-4.92</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rice</td>
<td>20.15</td>
<td>21.25</td>
<td>+1.20</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Jowar</td>
<td>15.33</td>
<td>12.35</td>
<td>-2.98</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Ragi</td>
<td>7.64</td>
<td>8.33</td>
<td>+0.69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wheat</td>
<td>0.40</td>
<td>0.45</td>
<td>+0.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bajra</td>
<td>1.14</td>
<td>0.32</td>
<td>-0.82</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other cereals</td>
<td>6.98</td>
<td>4.02</td>
<td>-2.96</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Pulses</td>
<td>5.77</td>
<td>3.50</td>
<td>-2.27</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tur</td>
<td>1.90</td>
<td>1.15</td>
<td>-0.75</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gram</td>
<td>0.91</td>
<td>0.20</td>
<td>-0.71</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other pulses</td>
<td>2.96</td>
<td>2.15</td>
<td>-0.81</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sugarcane</td>
<td>4.69</td>
<td>10.52</td>
<td>+5.83</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Condiments and spices</td>
<td>1.65</td>
<td>1.91</td>
<td>+0.26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fruits and vegetables</td>
<td>0.62</td>
<td>0.63</td>
<td>+0.01</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non Food crops</td>
<td>35.63</td>
<td>36.72</td>
<td>+1.09</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oilseeds</td>
<td>12.50</td>
<td>13.55</td>
<td>+1.05</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Groundnut</td>
<td>12.02</td>
<td>12.96</td>
<td>+0.94</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other oilseeds</td>
<td>0.48</td>
<td>0.59</td>
<td>+0.11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Cotton</td>
<td>0.65</td>
<td>0.35</td>
<td>-0.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tobacco</td>
<td>3.71</td>
<td>1.41</td>
<td>-2.30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Fodders (including other non-food crops)</td>
<td>18.77</td>
<td>21.41</td>
<td>-2.64</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Gross Cropped Area: 100.00 100.00 +11.63 -11.83

Source: Compiled by the author.
Foodgrains:

Food grains play a major role in the cropping pattern of the region. This is mainly due to their importance both as grains for human beings and straw for environment prevailing in the region. But individual foodgrains differ much in their requirements and can be grown under wide range of conditions. For example, rice is well suited to monsoon rains and jowar is grown where rainfall conditions are moderate.

About 50.22 percent of the cropped area is under foodgrains (cereals and pulses) in the region under study which is much lower than that of State average of about 68.96 percent. Fig. 4.1.A depicts the regional variations in distribution of foodgrains ranging from under 50 to over 60 percent of the total cropped area. High percentages under foodgrains (above 60 %) are noted in the western part (Bawada 68.73 % and Bhudargad 61.79 %). The talukas of Shirol, Ajra and Chandgad record 50 to 60 percent area under foodgrains. Elsewhere its proportion is below the district average and this is mainly due to the growing importance of sugarcane crop in the region. On the whole, the cereals and pulses dominate the agricultural landscape of the region.

The change that has occurred in foodgrains distribution during the period under investigation is shown in the
Changes in Foodgrains Cropping
1951-55 / 1971-75

Region average = 7.19

% Increase

% Decrease

% of total cropped area

60
50
60
50

Region average = 50.22

Fig. 4·1
map in Fig. 4.1.B. The most noticeable change is the overall reduction of area under foodgrains in the region. Of the twelve talukas under study, one taluka i.e. Kagal has shown some positive change (1.60%). Otherwise, everywhere the trend of negative change is widespread ranging from under 5 to over 15 percent or even over 20 percent (particularly in Shahuwadi taluka).

Cereals:

Cereals such as rice, jowar, ragi, vari, kodra, bajra, wheat etc. are of much importance among the foodgrain crops. They are both of superior and inferior quality, the inferior cereals survive well in areas having poor soils while the superior cereals are raised on level fertile soils. Rice, jowar and ragi are the major cereals of the region, whereas wheat, bajra, vari, kodra, maize are the minor crops, in the overall cropping pattern of the region. These minor crops gain some local significance but for the most part they remain unimportant. Further, there is difficulty in mapping them individually as the actual area under individual cereals is very small. Jointly they occupy just about 11829 hectares (amounting to 4.79%) of the total cereals area, the remaining being occupied by rice, jowar and ragi.
The cereals occupy 156401 hectares (amounting to 46.72%) of the total cultivated area as against 10091200 hectares of Maharashtra State (55.35%). Fig. 4.2.A and B portrays the spatial distribution and changes in the area of total cereals (rice, jowar, ragi and other cereals) in the region. The great dominance of cereals is obviously due to the huge food requirements of the human beings.

The regional variation in the major cereals distribution and changes therein will be evident while going through the different sets of maps.

Rice (Oryza sativa):

Rice is the leading crop of the study area locally called as 'Bhat' occupying over 86935 hectares of area. It is sown in June and harvested from about the middle of September onwards depending upon weather. It is the water loving tropical crop requiring high temperature and well distributed rainfall between 1250 mm to 1500 mm during the growing season. It thrives well on clay and clay loam soils.

About 21.25 percent of the total cropped area in the district is under rice which constitutes 6.49 percent of the total area in the State. Most of the paddy in the region is grown in the kharif season. However, in some areas of the district especially where artificial water
Cereals Cropping 1971-75

Region average = 46.72

Rice Cropping 1971-75

Region average = 21.25

Changes in Cereals Cropping 1951-55 / 1971-75

Region average = 4.92

Changes in Rice Cropping 1951-55 / 1971-75

Region average = 1.10

Fig. 4.2
supply is available some rice is also taken as summer crop. About 12433 hectares (amounting to 2.88 %) of the total rice area is under irrigation (summer paddy). The main improved varieties grown in the region are IR 8, Jaya, Native 1, Suhasini, Karjat, Ratnagiri 184 etc. which give better yields.

The spatial distribution of rice in the region is shown in Fig. 4.2.C. It is grown in almost all the talukas of the district. Its distribution ranges from below 10 to over 30 percent. But the talukas of Bawada, Radhanagari and Bhudargad in the western part have high proportions (over 30 %), mainly due to favourable physical requirements. The moderate proportions (20 to 30 %) are recorded in Shahuwadi, Panhala, Karveer, Ajra and Chandgad talukas. The remaining talukas have 10 to 20 percent or even below 10 percent area under rice.

Changes in rice cultivation in the region are exhibited in Fig. 4.2.D. Out of the twelve talukas comprising the district only five talukas have registered an increase but the proportion of area involved in increase is just under 3 percent. Areas of prominent increase are Kagal (4.90 %) and Shirol (4.59 %). In rest of the talukas the decreasing trend is observed varying from under 2 to over 4 percent. A decrease over 4 percent is confined to
three talukas viz., Shahuwadi, Radhanagari and Bhudargad and from 2 to 4 percent is observed in Bawada and Chandgad talukas.

**Jowar (Andropogon sorghum):**

Jowar, ranking second is grown most widely in the region, occupying an area of about 50553 hectares and average yield of 659 kg. The main improved varieties grown in the region are CSH1, CSH 5, M 35-1 and the local kharif jowar. It is taken in the areas receiving moderate amount of rainfall from 500 mm to 1200 mm. It is grown on a variety of soils ranging in texture from light sands to heavy clays but a fair crop can be raised on heavy clay soils, if drained well.

Jowar is both kharif and rabi crop but the proportion of area under rabi jowar is relatively less. Kharif jowar is sown in June-July and harvested in November. Ragi jowar is generally sown in September-October and harvested in the months of February and March. On an average there is 10.60 percent of area under jowar as against 32.26 percent in Maharashtra as a whole. However, within the district its proportion varies from under 5 percent to over 20 percent of the total cropped area. Greater concentration is observed in Shirol, Hatkanangale talukas (about 20 %) and in Kagal, Gadhinglaj talukas (10-20 %) (Fig. 4.3.A). The two talukas
of Hatkanangale and Shirol together share nearly 50 percent of the area under jowar. In the talukas of Karveer, Panhala and Ajra, the percentage of cropped area under jowar is 5 to 10 percent. Elsewhere the percentage is below 5 percent and even below 1 percent (particularly in Bawada and Chandgad talukas).

Fig. 4.3.B exhibits the changes in jowar area. The positive change is observed only in four talukas (Radhanagari, Kagal, Ajra and Bawada) but it is not so significant. In the remaining talukas a negative change is registered ranging from under 2 to over 4 percent. The prominent decreases are noted in Karveer and Shirol talukas with 4.36 and 4.58 percent respectively.

Ragi (*Eleusine coracana*):

It is an inferior kharif foodgrain, locally called Nagli or Nachani and is a purely rainfed crop usually grown in high rainfall region. The plant is very hardy and grows well in poor uplands which are too shallow and steep. It is sown in June-July and ripens about in November.

Ragi occupies third place among the cereal crops of the district, with 34123 hectares of cropped area (amounting to 8.33 %) which is about 18.51 percent of Maharashtra's ragi area. Regional differences in distribution are striking
and vary from negligible to over 10 percent of the total cropped area. It is grown throughout the western part of the district but achieves some significance in Chandgad taluka with over 20 percent. The moderate proportions are noted in Panhala, Karveer, Kagal and Gadhinglaj talukas. It is almost negligible in Hatkanangale and Shirol talukas.

The changing pattern of ragi cultivation during the last 25 years is depicted in Fig. 4.3.D. Positive change i.e. increase in area, during the period, is confined to Chandgad taluka (4.84%) whereas it is marginal (under 1%) in Kagal and Panhala talukas. Elsewhere, without any exception, the trend of decline (in area under ragi) appears most dominant, but it is not uniform. Maximum negative shift has been registered in Bawada taluka (6.03%). Talukas recording medium fall (1 to 3%) in area under ragi are Shahuwadi, Radhanagari and Bhudargad. In the remaining talukas the negative change is below 1 percent.

Pulses:

The variety of pulses grown in the region are tur, gram, udid, mug, masur, val, kulith etc. These pulses are very useful in many ways. They serve as excellent nutritious food and also increase the fertility of soil. They
are grown both as kharif and rabi crop. The soil and moisture requirements vary from pulse to pulse, but generally they need less moisture and most of them are rainfed.

The proportion of area under all the pulses (tur and other pulses) in the region is 14351 hectares (3.50 %) of the total cropped area as against 2282200 hectares (13.10 %) of the State. Fig. 4.4.A shows the regional variations in the share of pulses cropped area ranging from below 2 to over 5 percent. The principal pulses growing areas are Shirol, Hatkanangale, Kagal, Karveer, Gadhinglaj and Ajra talukas. Elsewhere, the proportions are very low because of high rainfall conditions. In general the pulses cultivation has diminished in importance during the last twenty five years in the region. Only Bawada taluka has shown negligible increase in the area under pulses. Otherwise the decrease in area is widespread, ranging from below 1 to over 4 percent (Fig.4.4.B).

**Tur (Pigeon pea):**

It is an important pulse crop of the region with an average yield of 382 kg. per hectare. It is sown in June-July and harvested in January-February. Usually it is sown as a mixed crop with groundnut and kharif jowar. It requires
Fig. 4.4
moderate amount of rainfall and black to brown soil.

Variations in the distribution of area under tur are not much and range from under 1 to over 2 percent in the region under study. On an average 1.15 percent of area is under tur as against 2.94 percent of the State. The eastern part (comprising Shirol and Hatkanangale talukas) has some concentration. Elsewhere, the proportions are very negligible (Fig. 4.4.C).

Map showing changes in tur cultivation brings out an overall decrease in area. Only two out of twelve talukas have shown some increase in area under tur but it is not very significant (Fig. 4.4.D). The remaining talukas record under 2 percent decrease in tur area.

The other pulses (gram, mug, udid and kulith etc.) are insignificant in the region's overall cropping pattern. They occupy an area of about 9626 hectares (amounting to 2.37 \%) but actual area under individual is very small.

**Sugarcane (Saccharum officinarum):**

Sugarcane locally called 'oos' is the second leading cash crop of the region and occupies an important place in the economy of the district. The jaggery of Kolhapur district is well-known not only in the State but all over
India. Bulk of the cane is used for making white sugar. There are 9 sugar factories in the region. It is a twelve month crop and is planted in the month of December-January. Ratooning is a common practice; two ratoons are invariably taken. Besides ratoon, the adasali cane cultivation is also practised in the region.

It is a water-loving tropical crop and therefore requires high temperature, maximum moisture and well developed irrigation facilities. It is grown well in areas with heavy alluvial loam soils. These factors singly or in combination determine the intensity of sugarcane cropping, despite the competition from food-grains and other cash crops. In Maharashtra, this district is closer to these requirements and so the concentration is maximum in this part of the State. About 10.52 percent (42935 hectares) of the total cropped area of district is under sugarcane which accounts for 22.18 percent of the total sugarcane cropped area of State. The improved varieties grown in the region are Co 419 and Co 740 and cover most of the area under sugarcane in the district.

The distribution of sugarcane in the study area is widespread, only few areas have a low proportion of area under sugarcane. Otherwise, everywhere the crop shares a significant proportion of the cropped hectarage. Fig.4.5.A
Sugarcane Cropping Changes in Sugarcane Cropping 1951-55/1971-75

Region average = 10.52

Condiments and Spices Cropping Changes in Condiments and Spices Cropping 1951-55/1971-75

Region average = 1.91

Fig. 4.5
depicts the regional variation of area under sugarcane which ranges from below 5 to over 15 percent of the total cropped area. The talukas of Karveer, Radhanagari record over 15 percent or even over 20 percent (particularly in Karveer taluka) followed by Panhala, Hatkanangale and Shirol talukas with 10 to 15 percent area under sugarcane. In contrast to this, the lowest area is recorded in Ajra and Shahuwadi talukas (below 5 %). And the rest of the talukas have a moderate proportion (5 to 10 %) of area under sugarcane.

The map in Fig. 4.5.B exhibits the pattern of change in sugarcane cropping in the region. The area under sugarcane has increased significantly during the period under investigation with an average of 5.83 percent and this is mainly due to the increased irrigation facilities in recent years in all the talukas of the district. Two talukas (Karveer and Shirol) record above 10 percent, while Hatkanangale, Panhala and Radhanagari talukas have recorded an increase of 5 to 10 percent. In the remaining talukas the proportion of area increased under sugarcane is 2 to 5 percent and below 2 percent.
Condiments and Spices:

Among the crops which come under this category, chilly i.e. 'Mirchi' occupies the first place in the region. The other crops included in this category of landuse are turmeric (Haled), garlic (lasun), ajewanseed (Ova), sweet fennual (Badishep) etc. The area under all these crops is taken together under the census category of condiments and spices. Only 1.91 percent of the total cropped area belongs to this category and it is more or less equal to the State average of 1.43 percent. Fig. 4.5.C shows the spatial pattern of the area under cultivation of condiments and spices. A very small proportion of area is found in every taluka unit of the region but some areal concentration i.e. above 2 percent is found in eastern talukas viz., Hatkanangale, Shirol, Kagal, and Gadginglaj. Elsewhere, the area ranges from 1 to 2%.

Map in Fig. 4.5.D depicts the changes in condiments and spices cultivation. Ten talukas out of twelve have shown some increase in the area but it is not so significant except Gadginglaj and Chandgad. Negligible decrease in area is noted only in two talukas (Panhala and Hatkanangale).
Non-food crops:

In the foregoing analysis the foodgrain crops and non-foodgrain crops are considered. Now in this category of landuse the oilseeds, fodders, and tobacco are discussed. On an average 36.72 percent of the cropped area is devoted to non-food crops, the major share being contributed by oilseeds and fodders.

Oilseeds:

The oilseeds are very useful in many ways as they are used both for edible and industrial purposes but the edible oilseeds occupy most of the cultivated area. Almost all the oilseeds are grown in kharif season on lighter type of soils and constitute an important group of cash crops.

Among the oilseeds grown in the region groundnut is an important one. The other oilseeds grown in this district on a very minor scale are sesame (Sesamum indicum), safflower, castor (Ricinus communis), linseed (Linum usitatissimum) etc. They together occupy about 55453 hectares (12.22 %) of the total cropped area of district which is higher than the State average of 1824600 hectares i.e. (10.07 %). The regional variation in the share is noticeable, ranging from below 5 to over 15 percent. The principal oilseed growing talukas are Hatkanangale, Kagal,
Gadhinglaj and Shirol (over 15 %) (Fig. 4.6.A). The areas of medium proportion (10 to 15 %) are Panhala, Karveer and Ajra talukas. In the remaining talukas the proportions are 5 to 10 percent and below 5 percent.

In all total, increase in area under oilseeds is observed during the period under investigation because of its commercial value. Significant increase is occurred in Hatkanangale, Kagal and Gadhinglaj talukas followed by Shirol, Panhala and Chandgad (1 to 3 %). In other talukas excluding Shahuwadi it is just below 1 percent. 2.37 percent decrease in area is observed only in Shahuwadi talukas (Fig. 4.6.B).

**Groundnut (Arachis hypogaea):**

Groundnut, locally known as 'Bhuimug', is a kharif crop, sown in June-July and harvested in November-December. It is chiefly grown in areas receiving rainfall between 500 mm to 1000 mm. The plant prefers light red and brownish loamy soil of good depth. In view of these preferences and also the competition with other crops, the average area (13.16 %) of groundnut in the region is much higher than that of State average - 4.26 percent. Fig. 4.6.C shows the regional variation in the extent of groundnut cultivation in the region. The greater concentration (above 15 %) of
Oilseeds Cropping
1971-75

Changes in Oilseeds Cropping
1951-55 / 1971-75

Groundnut Cropping
1971-75

Changes in Groundnut Cropping
1951-55 / 1971-75

Fig 4.6
Groundnut area is in the eastern talukas namely Hatkanangale, Kagal, Gadhinglaj and Shirol, whereas in Panhala, Karveer, Bhudargad and Ajra talukas the proportion of groundnut area is from 5 to 15 percent and elsewhere below 5 percent area under groundnut is registered.

The pattern of change in groundnut hectarage is exhibited in Fig. 4.6.D. Ten out of twelve talukas have shown some increase in the area under groundnut but the overall increase during the period is only 0.94 percent. The areas of increase are Kagal, Gadhinglaj (above 4 %) and Hatkanangale, Shirol, Chandgad and Panhala (1 to 4 %). Elsewhere, area involved in positive change is just below 1 percent. Decrease in area is mostly confined to the talukas of Shahuwadi (3.12 %) and Radhanghari (0.54 %).

**Tobacco**

Among the drugs and narcotics tobacco locally called Tambakhu is the only important crop. The tobacco seedlings are transplanted in the month of August and they become ready for cutting in about January-February. It is a kharif crop and is grown well where rainfall is below 60 cms. On an average it shares only 1.41 percent of the total cropped area of the region which amounted for 48.81 percent of tobacco area in the State. Thus, nearly about 50 percent
tobacco area of Maharashtra State is found in this region.
The spatial distribution of tobacco area is depicted in Fig. 4.7.A. It confined to the eastern part of the region particularly Shirol, Hatkanangale and Kagal talukas.

The change in tobacco cropping is recorded in Fig. 4.7.B. Only Panhala taluka has shown some increase and in rest of the talukas the decreasing trend is observed which is more significant (above 4%) in Shirol, Hatkanangale and Gadhinglaj talukas.

Fodders:

The fodder crops refer to all grasses, legumes or other crops which are grown pure or mixture to provide cut herbage for feeding green or for conservation in the form of hay or silage (Singh, 1979). Strictly speaking fodder crops as such are not grown in this district. In winter season only the maize is taken as a fodder crop but that too on a very small scale. In this part of the State the natural grasslands are the major source of fodder and are included in the cropland. The grasslands in some talukas are manured once or twice depending upon the number of cuttings in a year. The low hilly area is devoted to such fodders in the region. The grass and shevari grown in the malia are also included in this category of landuse.
Tobacco Cropping 1971-75

Changes in Tobacco Cropping 1951-55/1971-75

- Of total cropped area

Region average = 1.41

NIL = Negligible increase

NIL = Negligible decrease

Fodder Cropping 1971-75

Changes in Fodder Cropping 1951-55/1971-75

- Of total cropped area

Region average - 2.30

NIL = Negligible

Region average + 2.64

Fig. 4.7
In the overall cropping pattern fodder crops come next to foodgrains in the study area covering about 21.41% of the total cropped hectarage which is much higher than the State average (3.76%). The spatial distribution of fodders is exhibited in Fig. 4.7.C. Higher concentration (20 to 30 and over 30%) is seen in western part of the district because it is hilly and receives high rainfall, whereas in eastern part its proportion is low. Hatkanangale, Kagal and Gadhinglaj record 10 to 20 percent area under fodders and Shirol records below 10 percent area under fodders.

The map in Fig. 4.7.D exhibits the change in fodder hectarage in the region under study. Changes in the area under fodders during the period under investigation are very uneven, with an average increase of 2.64 percent. Out of twelve talukas comprising the district only seven talukas have registered an increase in area ranging from 5 to over 10 percent. The significant increase is noted in Shahuwadi taluka (23.69%) followed by Bawada and Bhudargad. Elsewhere, the positive increase is 5 to 10 percent and below 5 percent. In the remaining five talukas decreasing trend is observed ranging from below 2 to over 5 percent.
Miscellaneous Crops:

In the region, the miscellaneous crops include, fruits and vegetables, cotton and other fibres, minor cereals, minor pulses and oilseeds and they serve local needs. Together they account for over 7 percent of the total cropped area and gain some local significance. Further, there is a difficulty in mapping them individually as the actual area under individual crop is very small. So they are simply ignored.

Conclusion:

The foregoing analysis of the cropping pattern clearly indicates that there is a dominance of foodgrains (cereals and pulses). Rice, jowar and ragi are the leading cereals of the district, whereas wheat, vari, kodra, maize are not so significant in the cropping pattern of the region. Among the pulses tur is the only important pulse, other pulses are insignificant. Sugarcane is the leading cash crop of the region and occupies an important place in the economy of the district. Groundnut and fodder are the only two important non-food crops, occupying significant position in the cropping pattern of the region. Fruits and vegetables, cotton and tobacco occupy very small share of the cropped land.
Fluctuations in the crop landuse of the region are notable. Overall decrease in area under foodgrains and corresponding increase under cash crops particularly sugarcane is more apparent. Groundnut has also gained some importance, but tobacco is relatively lagging behind. Thus, the trends in cropping pattern are mainly from low value/low yielding crops to high value/high yielding crops.
REFERENCES:
